

MISSISSIPPI EDITION

## JFK Inquiry Leads Panel To Alabama

MOBILE (AP) — House investigators of the assassination of President Kennedy came to Mobile and questioned a self-described country music singer and former CIA operative who is accused of posing as a naturopathic physician, promoter and clergyman.

The Mobile Press, which reported the questioning Tuesday, said a member of the House Committee on Assassinations declined to comment on the interview with Thomas E. Beckham, 35.

Beckham was acquitted of federal fraud-by-wire charges in Mobile July 28. He was accused of fraudulently promoting a country music benefit concert which was never held while using the name Eggleston Zimmerman.

During the trial he testified he had worked for the CIA, and he played for the jury a country music record which he said he recorded.

After the acquittal, he remained in custody pending transfer to Arkansas, where he faces more fraud charges. On July 29, while he was waiting for extradition, the House investigators came to Mobile for the interview.

Jeff Stein, a Mobile attorney representing Beckham, said he was present during part of the questioning by the two investigators.

Stein said Beckham told the men he knew Lee Harvey Oswald in New Orleans, that Kennedy was the victim of a conspiracy and that he knows who took part in the conspiracy. But Stein said Beckham named no names while he was present. The attorney mentioned that Beckham has a 300-page manuscript about the assassination and hasn't been able to get it published.

FBI records show that Beckham, now in custody in Pine Bluff, Ark., is accused in that state of representing himself as a physician and practicing as a naturopathic physician in the Pine Bluff area.

Arkansas authorities also say Beckham formed his own chamber of commerce in White Hall near Pine Bluff and set up raffle ticket sales. They also say he has married couples, claiming to be an ordained bishop of a religious group called Essence Gospel of Peace.